Flathead Valley Community College
777 Grandview Drive | Kalispell, Montana 59901

DATE: October 21, 2026
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Jane Karas, Ph.D., President, Flathead Valley Community College
RE: Campus Report for the November 2026 Board of Regents' Meeting

- Kalispell-area philanthropist Jerome Broussard donated $7 million to FVCC, the largest single gift in the college's history. The gift will support infrastructure expansion of the FVCC Trades Institute. FVCC has raised $12.4 million towards this $16 million project.
    - https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2026/aug/28/jerome-broussard-donates-7-million-to-fvccs-trades-institute/
- The FVCC Board of Trustees approved the employment agreement for Dr. Deborah Kish Stephan, the college's next president.
    - https://www.kpax.com/news/local-news/flathead-county/fvcc-board-of-trustees-approves-contract-for-dr-deborah-kish-stephan-as-colleges-next-president
- FVCC's Trades Institute hosted "Night of the Trades" in October when more than 100 attendees explored hands-on sessions in high-demand fields such as welding, plumbing, construction, HVAC and CNC machining. Attendees participated in interactive sessions with FVCC instructors in small groups and explored local career opportunities.
- FVCC Career Services hosted a Healthcare and Human Services Mini Career Fair in October. The event featured nearly a dozen regional employers offering a wide range of opportunities from direct care roles like medical assistants, surgical technologists and certified nurse aides to industry support positions in IT, marketing and office administration.
- The NSF-funded STEM Experience Program at FVCC welcomed 11 scholars this fall, the program's largest cohort to date. Three scholars from the second and third cohorts received prestigious travel awards from the American Association for the Advancement of Science to attend the PI and Scholars Conference in Washington, D.C. in October.
- The Wachholz Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (WIEC) has held eight free community events since August. Topics included Innovation Commons, a morning event designed for FVCC employees to share ideas and spark new ones together, the monthly "Brew x Build" presented by Blair Carstensen of Larch Leaves LLC, and an AI Lab Workshop hands-on session around how to create AI skills.
- Fifteen biotechnology students passed the Biosciences Assistant Credential Exam (BACE) following their capstone course assessing readiness for careers in biotechnology as well as theoretical knowledge and practical laboratory skills.

- FVCC Honors Program Co-Directors Conrad Rauscher and Marty Mullins took eight Honors Program students to visit the University of Montana's Davidson Honors College in October. Students met faculty and staff, toured facilities as well as the Honors dormitory and UM's campus at large. All 4 of the FVCC Honors alumni who are currently at the DHC also shared their experiences at the Univ. of Montana with our FVCC students.

- The Wachholz College Center's Wanda Hollensteiner Art Gallery welcomed a new exhibition, "Paintings of Clyde Aspevig," featuring the work of distinguished Montana artist Clyde Aspevig. Considered to be the foremost representational landscape painter of our time, Aspevig is known for his depictions of the vast, open landscapes of Wyoming and Montana.

    - https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2026/sep/17/wanda-hollensteiner-art-gallery-to-showcase-distinguished-montana-landscape-painter/